

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232486

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKISH NATO PERMREP KIRCA ON  
TURKISH POPPY CONTROLS, SEPTEMBER 15

1. DURING INFORMAL MEETING AT KIRCA'S WASHINGTON HOTEL,  
ARRANGED AT HIS SUGGESTION, KIRCA AND AMBASSADOR VANCE DIS-  
CUSSED TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM CONTROLLING OPIUM POPPY  
PRODUCTION. KIRCA WAS UNTIL RECENTLY TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE  
AT UN GENEVA HEADQUARTERS WHERE HE PLAYED KEY ROLE IN  
ARRANGING FOR UN ASSISTANCE IN EFFECTIVE TURKISH POPPY CON-  
TROL PROGRAM.

2. KIRCA ASKED HOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL PROGRAM IS  
CURRENTLY PERCEIVED IN WASHINGTON. VANCE SAID THERE IS  
GENERAL ACCEPTANCE THAT THE CONTROL PROGRAM HAS WORKED VERY  
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WELL TO DATE AND THERE HAS BEEN NO EVIDENCE OF LEAKAGE INTO

THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC DURING THE FIRST AND SECOND HARVESTS. INFORMED OBSERVERS AGREE THAT THE FARMERS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE PRICES THEY HAVE RECEIVED. INDEED, THE ONLY POTENTIAL PROBLEM THAT VANCE COULD SEE CURRENTLY COULD ORIGINATE FROM FARMER AND GOVERNMENT ENTHUSIASM. IT WAS CLEAR WHEN THE PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED THAT OFFER OF A FAIR PRICE TO THE FARMERS WOULD BE ONE OF THE KEYS TO SUCCESS.

VANCE WONDERED IF THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MAY NOT SOON BE FACED WITH A PROBLEM OF OVER-PRODUCTION OF LEGAL OPIATE RAW MATERIAL.

3. VANCE THEN GAVE KIRCA THE DETAILS OF THE RECENT BIDDING ON THE 10,000 TONS OF CURRENT CROP POPPY STRAW OFFERED BY THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT. BIDS WERE MADE FOR ONLY 4,750 TONS AND AT PRICES RANGING FROM DOLS. 1,000 TO DOLS. 1,412 PER TON, WELL UNDER THE AVERAGE SALE PRICE FOR LAST YEAR'S 5,800 TON CROP OF DOLS. 1,912. KIRCA ASKED IF WE HAD ANY IDEA WHY THERE HAD NOT BEEN BIDS FOR MORE TONNAGE. VANCE REPLIED HE HAD HEARD FROM INDUSTRY THAT CONSIDERABLE POPPY STRAW CONCENTRATE WAS BEING PURCHASED BY AMERICAN COMPANIES FROM FRANCE, THAT EASTERN EUROPEAN STRAW PRODUCERS WERE HAVING AN EXCELLENT CROP AND THE DUTCH PROCESSORS WERE BUYING A GREAT DEAL OF INDIAN INCISED STRAW.

4. VANCE THEN REFERRED TO THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT'S POPPY STRAW TREATMENT PLANT WHICH TMO WAS INSISTING UPON BUILDING WITH A 20,000 TON CAPACITY. HE ADDED THAT THIS PLANT COULD PRODUCE UP TO 70 METRIC TONS OF MORPHINE ANNUALLY. ONE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THE CURRENT TOTAL WORLD CONSUMPTION OF MORPHINE IS 160-170 TONS AND THAT THE GROWTH RATE IS ONLY 3 TO 4 TONS PER YEAR. MOREOVER, TURKEY WOULD HAVE TO LICENSE CONSIDERABLY MORE FIELDS THAN THE 54,000 HECTARES LICENSED THIS YEAR IF THEY WERE TO PRODUCE 20,000 TONS OF STRAW. VANCE SAID HE KNEW KIRCA HAD HEARD EXPRESSIONS OF CONCERN FROM THE UN AND US IN GENEVA ABOUT THE APPARENTLY EXCESSIVE SIZE OF THIS PLANT AND THAT HE WAS MENTIONING IT AGAIN BECAUSE HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A COMPLICATING FACTOR IN EFFORTS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT DECIDE TO TAKE IF INDEED THERE IS OVER-PRODUCTION OF LEGAL

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OPIATE RAW MATERIAL IN THE WORLD.

5. KIRCA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THESE DETAILS AND SAID THAT HE HAD INDEED BEEN AWARE OF UN AND US CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE OVER-PRODUCTION, A CONCERN THAT HE RECOGNIZED WAS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF TURKEY AS WELL AS THE OTHER COUNTRIES. HE SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PLANT SIZE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT WHILE STILL STATIONED IN GENEVA BUT HAD CON-

CLUDED THAT THE DECISION WAS NOT REVERSIBLE. HE REFERRED ALSO TO THE GREAT SENSITIVITY OF THE POPPY CONTROL ISSUE IN TURKEY, ESPECIALLY IF AMERICAN VIEWS WERE BEING OFFERED.

6. KIRCA SAID HE BELIEVES OVER-PRODUCTION MAY WELL BECOME A PROBLEM. HE ADDED THAT THE CANADIAN DELEGATE TO THE UN

COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND) HAD INFORMALLY PROPOSED AT LAST FEBRUARY'S MEETING A COMMODITY AGREEMENT IN THE UNCTAD CONTEXT. KIRCA HAD PRIVATELY TOLD THE CANADIAN THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE ANY ARRANGEMENT OF THIS NATURE BEING SOUGHT WITHIN THE UN CONTEXT. VANCE ADDED THAT WE HAD ALSO TOLD THE CANADIANS THAT WE WERE COOL TO THE IDEA. KIRCA SAID HE WOULD FAVOR A CARTEL BETWEEN MAJOR PRODUCERS AND MAJOR CONSUMERS, ARRANGED OUTSIDE OF THE UN. VANCE REPLIED WE COULD NOT CONSIDER JOINING A CARTEL, FOR BOTH LEGAL AND POLICY REASONS. KIRCA THEN SAID THAT GOVERNMENT REPORTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS CALL FOR NATIONAL CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS AND PRODUCTION STATISTICS. HOWEVER, THESE UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT BECOME AVAILABLE IN TIME TO BE USEFUL PROJECTIONS OF THE FUTURE. VANCE REMARKED THAT DELEGATES USUALLY UPDATE THESE STATISTICS IN THEIR ORAL STATEMENTS AT THE CND. KIRCA ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS THE CASE BUT POINTED OUT THAT SUFFICIENT PROJECTIONS STILL ARE NOT AVAILABLE. HE CONCLUDED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME BETTER WAY OF MAKING AVAILABLE TO ALL MAJOR PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS THEIR RESPECTIVE PROJECTIONS FOR AT LEAST THE UPCOMING TWO YEARS. VANCE REMARKED THAT THIS MIGHT BE DESIRABLE BUT FURTHER THOUGHT WOULD HAVE TO BE GIVEN TO THE MODALITIES OF ARRANGING IT.

7. KIRCA STATED HE BELIEVED GREAT PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN ELIMINATING THE POPPY FROM THE LIST OF POLITICAL  
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PROBLEMS IN TURKEY AND BETWEEN TURKEY AND THE U.S. HE IS PERSUADED THAT BOTH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL AND FORMER PRIME MINISTER ECHEVIT ARE COMMITTED TO EFFECTIVE CONTROLS AS IS OZAL, THE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) NOW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE WHO HELD THE SAME POSITION UNDER ECHEVIT. KIRCA FURTHER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AUTHORIZATION TO GROW POPPIES WOULD NOT BE EXTENDED TO PROVINCES BEYOND THE SEVEN CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED. THE TURKISH FARMER IS PLEASED WITH THE CURRENT SYSTEM BOTH BECAUSE OF THE PRICE FOR POPPY STRAW AND SEEDS AND BECAUSE HE HAS ESCAPED THE HAND LABOR REQUIREMENTS OF THE INCISION METHOD OF HARVESTING. IN SUM, HE BELIEVES TURKEY IS EFFECTIVELY COMMITTED BEFORE WORLD OPINION AND THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONTINUING THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF CONTROLS.

7. COMMENT. THE LAW OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND MAY BE PERSUA-  
SIVE WITH THE TURKS REGARDING THE SIZE OF THEIR PLANT.  
KIRCA DID NOT MENTION THE POSSIBILITY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT  
WOULD ASK THE UN FOR PRICE SUPPORT ASSISTANCE. WE WOULD  
HAVE TO STUDY MOST CAREFULLY THIS MATTER BEFORE WE COULD  
CONSIDER FAVORING SUCH ASSISTANCE FROM THE UN. ROBINSON

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